

Figure 1: Cougar Creek Fire view of Baldy Mountain. Visibility has improved Thursday, allowing for aerial support of firefighters working in the steep, difficult, terrain.

Winds from thermal trough causing concerns today but significant weather changes ahead

A strong thermal trough causing a high Haines Index, convergent wind effect and high temperatures combined today across the Cascades, causing control issues on a new fire north of Medford, as well as increasing fire behavior on the Terwilliger Fire. This will be followed by a significant weather change and a 20-degree drop in temperatures, which will also result in fire indices taking a downturn over the next several days.

Some new resources are heading into the geographic area, including two CL 415 Superscooper planes and potentially the Multi Mission Aircraft (MMA) from Colorado.

Helpful Links:

PNW Execs blog: pnwexecs.blogspot.com (this page provide execs with easily accessed tools for looking ahead 3 days to 30 days. All are links to NWCC pages but made easy to find on this one page)
NWCC Blog: <http://nwccinfo.blogspot.com/>
Washington Smoke blog: <http://wasmoke.blogspot.com/>
7-Day Fire Potential Outlook: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/fwx/guidance/DL.pdf>
NWCC Morning Brief: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/products/intelligence/MORNINGBRIEF.pdf>
<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/photographs/6093/>

Fire related articles:

Wildfire Today: <http://wildfiretoday.com/2018/08/21/fires-grow-in-oregon-and-northern-california/>

Watson Creek Fire: <http://wildfiretoday.com/2018/08/21/watson-creek-fire-spreads-to-within-6-miles-of-paisley-oregon/>

Smoke/Air Quality: https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2018/08/portland_air_quality_updates_1.html

What causes wildfires?: <https://www.newsweek.com/crescent-mountain-fire-update-evacuations-wildfire-grows-1085816>

Cougar Creek Fire/USGS mapping: <https://earthshots.usgs.gov/earthshots/node/93#ad-image-0-0>

Terwilliger Fire: <http://www.registerguard.com/news/20180822/terwilliger-fire-east-of-eugene-springfield-now-estimated-at-nearly-1300-acres-campgrounds-closed>

New and Emerging Incidents

Oregon State –

Ramsey Fire – A new fire ignited today in southwest Oregon, north of Medford between the Taylor Creek and the Miles Fire. It had grown to 400 acres by late afternoon and was impacted by winds from the thermal trough. The fire is burning in checkerboard BLM and ODF-protected lands.

Washington State –

No significant new fires reported.

LARGE INCIDENTS - WASHINGTON

Crescent Mountain/McLeod/Holman Fires: (SA IMT 1, IC Wilkins) The 32,855-acre Crescent Mountain fire, and the 17,372-acre [McLeod Fire](#) are burning on the Methow Valley Ranger District of the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF. Containment for Crescent Mountain Fire is at 34 percent. The team is managing an additional new fire, the 120-acre Holman fire burning 19 miles northwest of Mazama. Level 3 evacuation levels are in effect for 150 homes in the area of Twisp. An additional 120 residents are under a Level 2. On Crescent Mountain, crews successfully held the spot fires across the Twisp River. The team was concerned that fire had spread onto North Cascades National Park, but per the infrared flight last night, it looked to be hung up on a rocky ridge just outside the park. Operations is working with the National Park Service to create a plan in the event the fire does enter the park. A public information officer has been stationed in Stehekin to address public concerns. Personnel on the McLeod Fire have been kept busy with 30-40 spots reported from the same wind event. All detected spots have been suppressed but the fire moved past primary containment lines on the west flank. Cooperator meetings continue daily. Approximately 250 people attended a community meeting last night in Twisp. A PBS NOVA filming crew is no longer on the fire as their request to film burnout operations could not be supported due to conditions on the fire and the fact the request was outside the parameters of their permit. More information is at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6093/>

Cougar Creek/Bannock Lake/White Pine/Lost Fires: CA Type 1 Team 5 (Young) is managing all four fires. Cougar Creek fire is reported at 39,208 acres and Bannock Lake Fire is at 479 acres. Containment is at 40 percent. Level 1 evacuations include 1,872 structures on the west flank and Level 2 evacuations include 777 structures in the vicinity of Plain. One the west flank, crews had to fall back to the alternate line after multiple spot fires occurred across the primary line on Tuesday. Yesterday clear air over the fire allowed for aviation use for the first time in a few days, resulting in maximum flight hours on all assigned helicopters. One National Guard crewmember was transported after reporting chest pain. Another bee sting victim was also transported. The Washington State Forester was at the ICP this morning. The team was also expecting a visit from the National and Regional fire directors. More information is at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6053/>

Boyd's Fire: (NW Team 11, IC Rabe) This fire is more than 3,413 acres with 54 percent containment and burning 3 miles west of Kettle Falls. Focus will remain on the west flank where hand and mechanical resources will continue work. Tactical firing operations will also continue in this area. State mobilization ended yesterday. The team is coordinating closely for several products with NW Team 9 on the Horns Mountain Fire and is lending IA resources. More information can be found here: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6139/>

Horns Mountain: (NW Team 9, IC Goff) This fire on the Colville NF started less than one mile from the Canadian border and is 3,568 acres and 25 percent contained. Evacuations remain in place on the Canadian side. The team continues to coordinate with British Columbia, who is supporting efforts on the 600+ acres that have burned across the border into Canada. On the US side, the fire made a 1.5 mile run to the west crossing contingency lines and burning into an area of beetle kill timber with an estimated 80-120 tons per acre of dead and down fuels, challenging firefighters. Crews are working to contain this flank through dozer work on existing roads. Firing operations will take place from the north to the south on the western flank. The incident reported an average of 24 bee stings a day. More information can be found here: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6139/>

Miriam/Clear Lake Fires: (NW Team 8, IC Johnson) The fire is 3,653 acres, 30 percent contained and burning east of the White Pass Ski Area in the Goat Rocks Wilderness, 32 miles southwest of Naches, WA. Evacuations remain in place. Most of the growth and activity yesterday was in the Goat Rocks Wilderness. Aviation assets were used heavily yesterday as it was the first day of clear air recently. An IR flight showed the Clear Lake Fire at about 30 acres. A representative of Senator Cantwell’s will be in the area tomorrow. More information is at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6066/>.

LARGE INCIDENTS - OREGON

Taylor Creek and Klondike Fire: (AK Team 1, IC T. Kurth, CA 4, IC J. Kurth). Taylor Creek is at 52,588 acres with 95 percent containment and some suppression repair work taking place on the east. Klondike Fire is showing at 76,098 acres with 33 percent containment. Evacuation levels were lowered from a Level 3 to a Level 2 for some residents on Illinois River Road. A few Level 3 remain in place. On the west side, crews continued to work a 50-acre spot fire near the fork of Silver Creek. A public meeting in Gold Beach was well attended and well received. A staffer from Rep. DeFazio’s office will be visiting the ICP on Thursday, and U.S. Representative Greg Walden will be visiting on Friday. Agency Administrators were determining the glidepath for AK Team 1, T. Kurth IC, who is working the Klondike East and Taylor Fires. A type 2 team will likely inbrief tomorrow, shadow on Friday and assume command Saturday morning. More information is at the swojic.blogspot.com and <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6058/> for Taylor Creek and <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5998/> for Klondike.

Watson Creek – (NW Team 6, IC Sheldon) This fire is burning 13 miles west of Paisley on the Fremont-Winema NF in an area of heavy, dead and down timber. It started Aug. 15 and has grown to more than 35,287 acres with 10 percent containment. With cooler temperatures and higher relative humidity, crews were able to make good progress on the fire, especially the northwest corner. Level 1 and 3 evacuations remain in place for approximately 20 residences under each level. One success was noted where the fire’s growth was mitigated once it reached an area treated by prescribed burn by the district. A community meeting is planned for 7:00 p.m. in Paisley Thursday night. The emergency closure area for the Fremont-Winema NF now includes the Gearhart Mountain Wilderness. One bee sting requiring medical attention occurred. More information is available at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6153/>

Natchez Fire: NW Team 13 (IC Gales) assumed command at yesterday of the 23,228-acre Natchez Fire, which is 70 percent contained. Evacuation notifications remain in place. Crews completed fire line explosives prep work and are looking into firing operations on the west side. They have ¼ mile more of timber to cut to secure the west side and keep it from moving into the Illinois River Valley. Crews are also finishing structure assessments and prep work in the communities of Sunstar and Takilma. The team heard positive feedback from a lightly attended meeting in Happy Camp. No additional public meetings are planned. More information is the swojic.blogspot.com and <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5948/>

Miles/Columbus (PNW Team 2 - IC Schulte) Evacuation levels were downgraded to Level 1 in all areas. The fire is at 47,943 acres with 39 percent containment. Today crews were finalizing 3 miles of burnout on the east. Discussions are ongoing regarding the best plan of action on the west regarding whether or not a burnout is necessary. A low-boy hauling an excavator tipped onto its side today, causing Hwy. 62 to be temporarily shut down. One firefighter was treated for a large splinter in the leg and released. A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday night in Tiller. The fire is no longer in unified command with ODF. More information is available at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/5966/>

Terwilliger Fire: (SW Team 2, IC Sinclair) is in command of the 1,248-acre Terwilliger Fire, which is located on the Willamette National Forest near the Terwilliger Hot Springs. The fire is on both sides of Cougar Reservoir. To the west, the fire threatens private timber. To the east, the fire is heading toward wilderness. An area closure has been issued. Today’s winds from the thermal trough were hampering firefighters’ efforts. More information can be found at: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6160/>

Stubblefield/Seale/Lonerock/Jennies Peak – NW Team 7, IC Knerr & OSFM Blue Team are in unified command over several incidents for a total of more than 89,000 acres. The fires include the following:

- *Stubblefield Fire:* The fire is burning 7 miles northwest of Condon. The fire has burned an estimated 23,150 acres and is at 50 percent containment. Point protection is taking place with 93 residences threatened.

- *Seale:* This 23,600-acre fire is 40 percent contained and burning 14 miles west of Condon and 15 percent contained. Six homes are threatened. It merged with the Stubblefield Fire yesterday.

- *Lone Rock:* This fire is 5056 acres with 60 percent containment burning 12 miles east of Condon. The small community of Lone Rock is within four miles of the fire’s edge. A community meeting is planned for 7:00 pm this evening in Lone Rock. Approximately 40 residences could be threatened.

- *Jennies Peak Fire:* This 38,000 acre fire with 40 percent containment is located 13 miles south of Fossil. Structures are threatred, evacuations and road closures are in place.